



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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For Immediate Release

09 October 2012

Republic of Palau Accommodates U.S. Forces from USS Peleliu



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Dustin Kelling

Marines clean and inspect a 25mm cannon of one of these AV-8B Harrier jets aboard the amphibious assault ship—USS Peleliu

PACIFIC OCEAN – Two AV-8B Harrier jets assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 (REIN), embarked on amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5), made an unscheduled landing on the island of Palau due to inclement weather on Oct. 6. The jets were conducting unit level flight operations from Peleliu while the ship transited the region as part of a scheduled deployment.

The U.S. Embassy on the island of Palau was contacted by Peleliu, and worked with the Republic of Palau to arrange for lodging for the two pilots and fuel for the aircraft. "Although the weather caused this unexpected event, the support we received from the Republic of Palau allowed our pilots to land safely," said Capt. Mark Sakaguchi, commander, Amphibious Squadron Three. "The assistance that was provided by the Republic of Palau demonstrates the value of our partners in the Oceania region."

San Diego based Peleliu is the flagship of the Peleliu Amphibious Ready group currently on a Pacific Ocean deployment with the amphibious dock landing ship USS Green Bay (LPD 20) and amphibious transport dock ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47), with 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked throughout the three ships.

-LHA 5-